

# GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

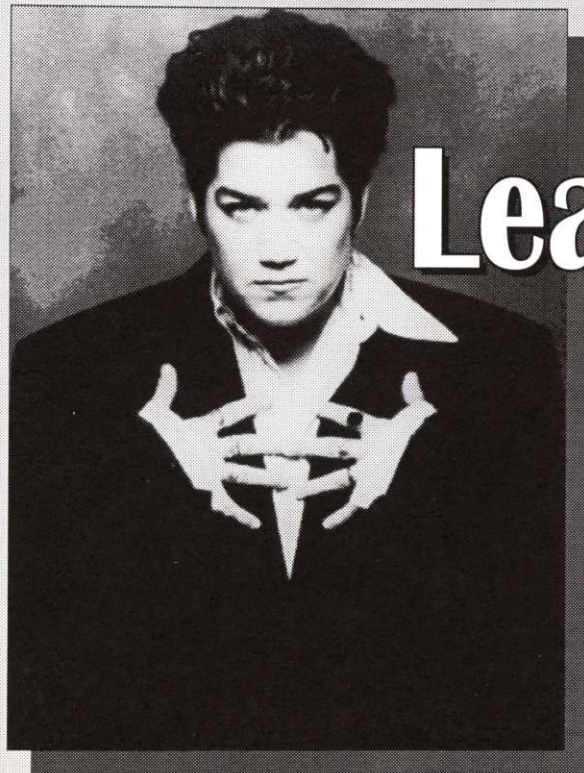
Vol. 3 Issue 12 December 1996





# DIAMONZ

PRESENTS



**SILENT NIGHT, HOMO NIGHT**  
*...in the little town of Bethlehem!*

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**Dec. 20th**

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**ABOVE GROUND**

PO Box 1656

Allentown, PA 18105-1656

# On the Cover

It looks like Monica got her Christmas present early this year!!

We caught up with sexy model Dan Renzi of MTV's *The Real World* at the Miss Cartwheel Pageant in New Hope on Monday, November 4th.

Sporting that killer smile, Renzi was more than happy to step in front of AboveGround's camera with Cartwheel's Monday Night Diva, Monica Rey.

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*The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.*



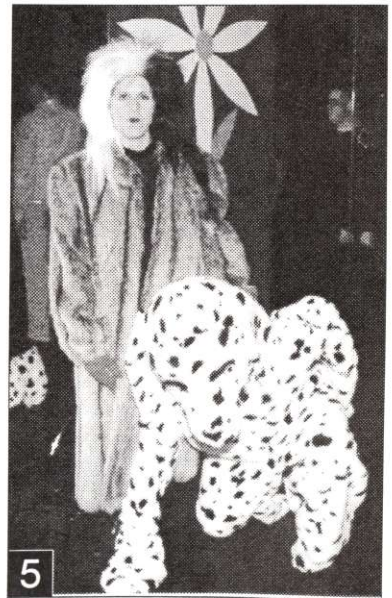


**1 - 6 )** Ghouls, Goblins, and Queens of all kinds were seen at Halloween parties at Diamonz and Stonewall on Saturday, October 26th.

**7 )** A memorial service was held for Barry Bergey at Candida on Sunday, November 10. Barry, who was unjustly taken from us on October 26th, was remembered by family, friends and community members through ovation and song. Pictured are (L-R) Candida, Detective & Mrs. Markowitz, Erma Klinger, Barry's sister Jean and his Niece. The event raised \$850, \$200 of which went to the Crime Stoppers program, with the remainder donated to Barry' Family.

**8 )** BROOKE CHAMBERS takes her first walk as the newly crowned Miss Cartwheel for 1997.

**A  
LOOK  
BACK**







8



6

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=O

FEATHER

=O

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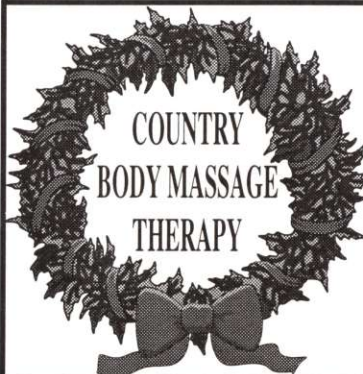
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# ⑥ Coming Events

# Weekly

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Dec. 1	The FACT Snow Ball	Hilton / A-town
4	Tinsel Garland	Stonewall
7	Damzels	Diamonz
7	White Christmas Party	Candida
8	The Dream Team Male Review	Stonewall
8	ASC Benefit Christmas Bazaar	Diamonz
9	Fab Drag Christmas Show	Scarab
11	Dee Dee Lewis	Stonewall
14	Holiday Food Drive/Chiropractic	see ad, pg.17
14	Michael Ferreri	Stonewall
14	14th Anniversary Party	Scarab
14	Lori Ricabono	Diamonz
15	L.V. Gay Men's Chorus & Tinsel	Cartwheel
17	Gay & Lesbian Roller Skating	see ad pg.13
18	Maxi Carter	Stonewall
19	Holiday Party / L.V. Lesbians	Call
19	Barbara Trent Christmas Carolin	Cartwheel
20	Lea Delaria	Diamonz
20	Elaine Paxson	Stonewall
21	Christmas Party	Rainbow Mt.
21	Cheryl Skye Band	Diamonz
22	Enigma Players Christmas Show	Stonewall
23	4th Anniversary Party	Diamonz
24	MCC Christmas Eve Service	Call
24	Barbara Trent	Cartwheel
25	<b>Hey, It's Christmas.....Be Mary!</b>	
25	Dee Dee Lewis Christmas Show	Stonewall
27	Comedian Eddie Sarfaty	Stonewall
27	Latino Christmas Party	Diamonz
28	Michael Ferreri	Stonewall
29	Kate & CJ	Rainbow Mt.
30	Michael Ferreri	Rainbow Mt.
31	New Year's Parties (everywhere)	See Ads

*Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source info we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide and call the individual organizations for more info and/or confirmation. Phone numbers can be found on page 26.*

## SUNDAY

--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM  
 --KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM  
 --ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL  
 --SUNDAY TEA / CARTWHEEL / 4PM

## MONDAY

--ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM  
 --DRAG SEARCH / CARTWHEEL / 11PM  
 --DragSearch Night / SELECTIONS / 11PM  
 --Monday Night Footbal / SCARAB

## TUESDAY

--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM  
 --KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10pm-2am  
 --KARAOKE / SELECTIONS  
 --DART LEAGUE / CANDIDA

## WEDNESDAY

--COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB  
 --POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA 8PM  
 --MALE STRIPPERS / CARTWHEEL / 11:30PM

## THURSDAY

--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM  
 --KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10PM-2AM  
 --KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM  
 --COUNTRY 2-STEP / Cartwheel / 8PM  
 --COUNTRY WESTERN / SELECTIONS  
 --POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ  
 --REQUEST DANCE / STONEWALL

## FRIDAY

--MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL  
 --Band, Request or Oldies Night / DIAMONZ  
 --KARAOKE / RAINBOW MOUNTAIN

## SATURDAY

--ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL  
 --KARAOKE / RAINBOW MOUNTAIN



**Tuesday, Dec. 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

- Disco Open 10pm-2am •
  - Happy Hour 10pm-12am •
- On Both Floors!

**Wednesday, Dec. 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- A Special Christmas Show •
  - featuring Dee Dee Lewis
  - Lounge Opens at 8pm •
  - Disco Opens at 10pm •
  - Special Happy Hour •
- 8pm-10pm

**Friday, December 27**

Direct from  
NYC & Provincetown

**Comedian**

**EDDIE SAFATY**

- One Show Only •
- 11:00 pm



**Saturday, Dec. 28**

**MICHAEL FERRERI**

On Piano In  
the Moose Lounge



**Tuesday, December 31**

**NEW YEARS EVE**

**GALA!**

- Both Floors open 9pm •
  - Full Hot & Cold Buffet •
  - Complimentary Champagne •
- At Midnight
- Special Happy Hour •
- 9-10pm Both Floors
- Hats & Noisemakers •

**Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1997**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

- Lounge Opens at 8pm •
  - Disco Opens at 10pm •
  - Special Happy Hour •
- 8pm - 10pm

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Ms. March	: PENNI KANDY
Ms. April	: NANCY MONTIEL
Ms. May	: KARLINE LEWIS
Ms. June	: MOIST MAXIE
Ms. July	: SOPHIE TUCKER
Ms. August	: JOY
Ms. September	: MAXI CARTER
Ms. October	: EVA THE DEVA
Ms. November	: RIO DIAMOND
Ms. December	: TINSEL GARLAND

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# LAVENDER LIGHT



DAILY MEDITATIONS  
FOR GAY MEN IN RECOVERY  
Adrian Milton

**Lavender Light : Daily Meditations for Gay Men in Recovery.**  
**by Adrian Milton. New York:**  
**The Berkley Publishing Group,**  
**1995. \$10.00**

I'm not really interested that much in movie stars, but two of my very favorites are the super-gay icons Bugs Bunny and Joey Stefano. Bugs is an immortal. He will never grow old, get sick, and die. He will always be fun and sexy. Joey Stefano (real name

Nick Iacona), however, was a human being. On-screen he was an excellent actor. He played an ideal lover, and did so with grace, charm, poise, and charisma. Off-screen he was apparently a very sweet, ordinary guy filled with demons and fears. In real life the two things he did best were to use drugs and use people. He was an addict who did not find help with his problem. He ruined his relationships with friends, lovers, and co-workers; destroyed his health and career; and died from a multiple drug overdose of heroin and

ketamine ("Special K").

Addiction is not a fairy tale. It is classified medically as a disease that affects one physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Whatever one's drug of choice --- alcohol, pot, coke, heroin, Special K, etc. --- the result is always the same: self-destruction and finally death. Unlike some other diseases, there is as yet no known cure. However, addiction can be treated, and the progress of the disease can be arrested. Addicts can find help through rehab clinics, as well as various support groups. For those who are addicts, the situation is not hopeless. There is help. There are tools.

Lavender Light is one such tool to aid in the recovery process from active addiction. There are many similar books on the market which contain brief daily reflections concerning various issues with the disease. There are some specifically written for lesbians; or gays and lesbians. Lavender Light is one example written specifically for gay men. There are many others. One can easily find copies at any good book store is either the "Self-Help" and/or "Gay and Lesbian" sections. This particular book addresses issues such as confronting internal and external homophobia, coming out, same-sex relationships, civil rights, violence and abuse (both self-inflicted as well as received from others), recognizing and correcting addictive behaviors, finding healthy environments and new friends to aid recovery, dealing with shame and denial, and discovering self-acceptance, honesty, and openness.

If you think that you might have a problem with alcohol or some other drug; or if you know someone who you think has a problem, then this might be an important step. This, or a similar daily reflections book, might help. December can be a very joyous, or stressful month. I know of three different religions which have a similar holiday involving family and gift-giving. We all have a family of origin, with parents who are either biological or from adoption. As same-sex lovers we are also a part of the family of gay men and lesbian women. This book review, however sentimental, is my gift this year to you. Bugs Bunny was openly gay in his movies, decades before most of us were even born. Off-screen, Bugs was also openly gay. He realized that he didn't need to drink or drug in order to have a good time. The strongest thing he ever drank was carrot juice. And, you know what they say about rabbits.



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# DYNAMITE DECEMBER



**Sunday, December 15**

## **Cartwheel Christmas Party**

featuring:  
**The Lehigh Valley  
Gay Men's Chorus  
and TINSEL GARLAND**  
with her Christmas Fairies  
\$3 cover - Showtime 8PM



**Thursday  
DECEMBER 19  
Barbara Trent  
Christmas  
Caroling Party**

**Christmas Eve  
DECEMBER 24**

**LUNCH : 11:30-3:30**

**DINNER : 5:30-10:00**

**Featuring Song Stylist  
BARBARA TRENT**

**Singing all your  
Favorite Holiday Tunes!**

**Tuesday, December 31  
New Year's Eve Dinner**

featuring:

- A FIVE COURSE, GOURMET DINNER •
- GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE •
- ADMISSION TO THE DISCO •

**\$75 per person  
TAKING RESERVATIONS NOW!**

## **THE CARTWHEEL'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH**

**Tuesday, December 31**

- ONE HOUR OPEN BAR 9:00PM-10:00PM ... HATS AND NOISEMAKERS •
- CHAMPAGNE TOAST ... CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST BUFFET •
- \$15 IN ADVANCE • \$20 AT THE DOOR •

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# CARTWHEEL

*...Of Course!*

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# Liz OUT Loud

by Liz Bradbury

## Whip It Out!

Picture this: the entrance to an Allentown polling place with a campaign worker out front stumping for his candidate.

This may seem like nothing special to you but it makes me and Trish grin with diabolical glee. This is a chance for lesbian voters to do a little campaigning of their own.

We are especially excited because usually there aren't any campaign workers at our one booth neighborhood voting site. We encourage people to whip out their League of Gay and Lesbian Voters' Guides and check candidates when campaign workers confront them at the polls. It's even worthwhile to call attention to candidates who haven't bothered to respond to the guide questionnaires at all. For the first time we can practice what we preach.

We want to seem like two separate unrelated voters so Trish goes first. I wait in the car watching the action in the rear view mirror.

I can see the guy accosting her with a leaflet. He wants her to vote for Charlie Dent. Dent is the incumbent running for State House of Representatives. He's a moderate Republican who cosponsored the

Hate Crimes Bill but voted against the legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

I can see Trish talking to this guy. She's whipping out her Voter's guide, she's pointing to the place where it says Dent voted against same-sex marriage. She's telling him she doesn't like Dent's school voucher plan because our tax dollars would pay for religious schools that are anti-gay.

Trish is talking to the guy for a long time about many issues. She points to the guide again. The guy's face blushes red.

I find out later Trish is saying, "I am a lesbian, how can I support this person?"

The guy says to her she should take everything Dent stands for into account.

Trish says as she goes into the voting building, "Last election I voted for Dent because of what he said he would do, this time, I'm voting on his record."

I get out of the car. The campaign worker comes up to me and hands me a leaflet. "Charlie Dent," I say as I whip out my Voter's Guide and flip to page 50. "He voted against same-sex marriage." The campaign worker says nervously, "Well you have to look at his whole record not just one issue."

I say, "If someone told you that you couldn't marry the person you loved and that your family wasn't legally valid or protected under the same laws as everyone else's, would you think that was only one issue? In America isn't that what every issue is ultimately about? It was Dent's political party that thought up this hateful legislation to begin with. How can I vote for a person who's against civil rights? How can you?" I go into the building.

So we did our civic duty outside the polls as well as in. The point was not to embarrass this campaign worker. It was to make him and his candidate aware that voters are paying attention.

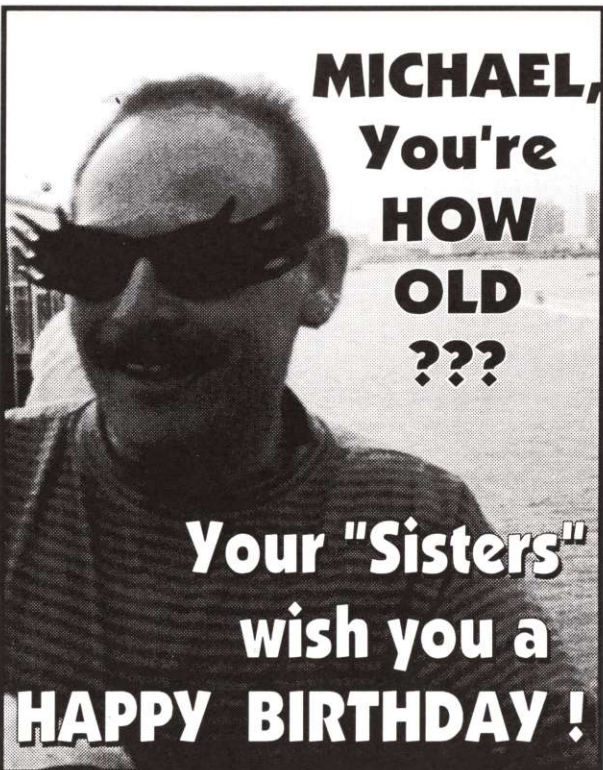
Few people say anything to this campaign worker at all. It doesn't take many people with a Voter's League Guide to make him go back to Dent headquarters and say, "all day these people with Gay Voters' Guides came up to me and said they wouldn't vote for you because you had voted against same-sex marriage. Dent will remember that."

Dent only won by about 1500 votes. Not exactly a landslide since the guy running against him had a serious heart attack during the campaign. There are far more than 1500 gay men and lesbians in Allentown. In two years Dent will have to run again. Let's elect someone who says yes to our rights.

Next year the elections will be for row offices and school board. Some of these elections are won by as little as 10 votes. Often these elections are won in the Primary because there aren't enough candidates to face off in the general election. Voters registered as "Independent" can NOT vote in Primaries. You must be registered as either a Democrat or Republican. Be sure you are, because it's in those little elections that the Religious Right sneaks in candidates.

Statistically, there are more gays and lesbians registered to vote than members of the Christian Coalition. Hey, we can rock this place but "you gotta play to win."

*Liz Bradbury is the Coordinator for the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters.*





## Won't You Help ?

Once again the holiday season is upon us. Shiny Bright objects, colored lights, the smell of freshly cut trees with mysterious wrapped objects beneath them fill our senses. For a few days, perhaps weeks, there is a kinder, gentler feeling towards our neighbor, our boss, and our co-worker. We try not to get caught up in the "business" of Christmas, but we do. We try not to think about the cost of a present, but we wonder if it is enough, will mine compare to others.

There is something going on in the valley that will allow the true feelings of the holidays to shine through. *The Angels Project*, coordinated by the Metropolitan Community Church along with AIDS Outreach and other communities of faith, is for those individuals and families infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. It is an opportunity for sharing part of what we have in time and gifts with those who have little. It is a way to make sure that an individual or family has as merry a Christmas as possible.

First names, ages, and often wishes are supplied by AIDS Outreach. Individuals or businesses adopt the names and become "Angels." These "Angels" fill the needs, providing gifts and food.

For the past couple of years the MCC of the Lehigh Valley has distributed these "gifts of love" to the individuals and families so that on Christmas there is something special for those with special needs. won't you help?

If you can please become an "Angel" and adopt an individual or family by donating food or gifts, you can contact AIDS Outreach at (610)435-8424. If you prefer you may drop off your "gifts of love" at either AIDS Outreach or at the Metropolitan Church of the Lehigh Valley.

The two drop off sites are:

AIDS Outreach  
112 N. 5th St.  
Allentown, PA 18102

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh valley  
at The Unitarian/Universalist Church  
424 Center St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
(5:30pm - 8:00pm Sundays)

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Dec. 29**

**Michael  
Ferrerri  
Monday  
Dec. 30**

**K A R A O K E ! &**

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Every Friday & Saturday in December

## New Years Eve Celebration!

**Tuesday, December 31**

- Bar Opens at 7:00 PM
  - \$15 in advance - \$20 at door
  - Buffet • Hats & Party Favors
  - Champagne Toast at midnight
- Dinner & Party Packages Available**  
( Please Call for Details )



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# 12 To Your Health

by Dr. John Cochran



## Yoga; Joining the mind and body.

As man thinks, so he becomes. This is the cardinal maxim of yoga. Thousands of years ago, our elders understood the importance of aging "gracefully". They turned to herbs, ceremonial rights and exercise to ease each yearly transition period. Today, we still search for fountains of youth. Physical signs of aging are often concealed and those who "look their age" are not thought to be doing well. As the physical strength took for granted begins to show signs of wear and tear, we set off on a search for longevity.

While we can not halt the aging process, we can make choices to conserve our health. Yoga is one of these choices. Yoga, a Sanskrit word meaning "Unity," was developed in India over 5000 years ago. Its practice focuses on breathing techniques; stretched positions called "asanas," physical, mental, and spiritual awareness; an open heart; a calm mind; and a strong body. Most people's recollection of yoga derives from the 60's, when candle-burning, sitting cross-legged, and chanting "om" were the craze. But today, yoga's "90's-style hybrid combines stress relieving stretches with strenuous muscle toning and aerobics.

Conventional exercise and sports tout the advantage of youth and agility. With yoga, the postures and breathing are part of a timeless

system that integrates the mind, the body and spirit, no matter what age.

In the yoga tradition life is divided into four stages, each with a particular value from the student or beginner stage to the wondering scholar when the search for spiritual enlightenment is paramount.

The goal is to realize the potential of each phase of life and use yoga as part of the practice. The great misconception of this art is that it is for the sedentary, people with disabilities or the elderly. Not true. If executed properly, yoga is a tough work out involving almost every muscle in the body. While it use to be popular only with the Baby Boomers of the 60's and 70's, younger crowds now find it appealing. There are more than one thousand postures and the endless combinations can suit many needs.

Still many remain skeptical because of yoga's religious and meditative aspects. Yoga is not a religion; there are no doctrinal requirements. But, if practiced correctly, it assists the body in using energy more efficiently.

An estimated 6 million people practice yoga regularly. This is nearly the double the number of three years ago. While many have stumbled upon its benefit, others may have been encouraged to try it by their healthcare provider.

Aside from a fitness prospective, yoga has been found to relieve or even cure chronic ailments. Doctors at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA have even incorporated yoga into their post-heart attack program.

Yoga is a powerful system of stress management. The collection of stretching exercises and postures limber up the body while slowly controlled moves and breathing calm the mind.

In one study, patients with severe heart disease who engaged in yoga exercises had a 91% reduction in chest pain within two weeks. Within one year, they reduced artery blockage significantly.

There are a myriad of physiological changes that occur as our bodies respond to stress. Yoga is often used to counteract stress effects. It is believed that yoga and other relaxation-based therapies tremendously impact physical well being. It is believed that when people control their response to stress, they lower the risk of developing stress related illnesses.

In yoga the instructor adheres to five basic principles: 1. Silence - keep the mind quiet so thoughts can enter. 2. Listen. 3. Remember so you can consider. 4. Understand so it will have meaning. 5. Act.

In traditional sports, points, goals and scorekeeping indicate success; with yoga, success is measured by how long you can stay calm and relaxed. Yoga postures evolve from sitting, standing, or lying positions. Their purpose is to realign the body, restore natural balance, and free habitual tension.

Whether we know it or not, we all seek to maximize our well-being and joy. Sometimes we try to do so in strange and self-destructive ways, mainly because we confuse pleasure and immediate satisfaction with abiding happiness.

There is no fountain of youth or quick fix for vitality. With yoga, you are forced to listen to your body, become aware of it's tremendous ability, and finally be responsible for it's well-being.

Dr. John Cochran is a practicing Chiropractor with offices in Allentown, Pa. To have a question or subject answered in this column, address to "To Your Health" C/O AboveGround Magazine, P.O. Box 1656, Allentown, PA 18105-1656

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## In Fond Memory

### Barry E. Bergey

Barry Bergey, a well known friend to many in the Lehigh Valley Community was taken from us on Saturday, October 26, 1996.

The violence surrounding his death at the hands of a stranger, only increased the sorrow, and disbelief, of many at his passing. At the time of this printing, a suspect has been arrested.

Barry was well liked by friends as well as co-workers at Maison Blanc. His was a well known face at the Allentown Farmer's Market stand where he worked.

He is survived by friends and family who, in part, attended a service in his honor at Candida in Allentown on November 10. He will be missed.

### Darlene Birdsong

Popular vocalist Darlene Birdsong died on Friday, November 15. She was well known throughout our community for her performances at local clubs and fundraising events.

Darlene never let the cancer that was attacking her change the force and commitment to which she gave her efforts of raising money for others in similar situations. She founded "Angels of AIDS" and organized and participated in many fundraising events for AIDS and cancer.

A service was held for Darlene on Wednesday, November 20. Her motto, as quoted from the program, stated "whatever goals you try to reach, just be the best that you can be."

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**E** **Skateaway Roller Rink**  
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**'96** **Whitehall, PA**  
**\$5 Admission**  
**7:30pm - 10:30pm**

**J** **Tuesday, January 21**  
**A** **Skateaway Roller Rink**  
**N** **Lehigh & MacArthur Rds.**  
**'97** **Whitehall, PA**  
**\$5 Admission**  
**7:30pm - 10:30pm**

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# PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

## Who was Yukio Mishima?

Yukio Mishima was one of Japan's most popular twentieth century novelists, whose writings include some of the first modern Japanese explorations of gay identity and gay subculture. His disturbing suicide in 1970 drew attention to his unusual philosophy, which combined right-wing nationalism with the veneration of the male body and a fascination with violence.

Two of Mishima's novels dealt directly with gay issues: *Confessions of a Mask* (1949), which is considered Japan's first "coming out novel;" and *Forbidden Colors* (1951), which had Tokyo's gay subculture as its setting.

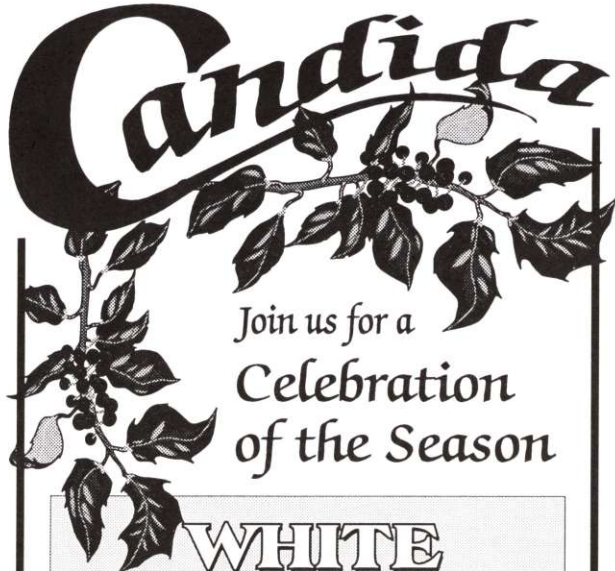
During the 1960s, Mishima continued to write, and to develop the philosophy that ultimately led to his violent death. He believed that the emperor was central to Japanese society, and indeed that no two people could love each other without first loving the emperor. He also believed that to live with honor meant to be prepared for war, to be unafraid of violence, and to be intensely loyal to one's colleagues.

In his writing, Mishima frequently praised the Japanese samurai who ended their own lives by performing seppuku (also known as hara-kiri), a ritual form of suicide in which the warrior takes a short knife and disembowels himself, after which a fellow warrior cuts off his head. It became clear to many who read his works (which by the late 1960s were among the most celebrated of any Japanese writings) that Mishima hoped to end his own life someday in such a fashion. Seppuku was clearly erotic for Mishima, who once called it (just months before his death) "the ultimate masturbation."

However, Mishima felt that ritual suicide was not honorable unless one's body was in peak physical condition. Though he was skinny as a young man, he started a strict regimen of bodybuilding at age 30, which he continued through his death at age 45, by which time he was extremely muscled.

But Mishima is probably best remembered for the last day of his life. On November 25, 1970, along with some of his right-wing nationalist followers, he stormed a Japanese military headquarters (the army was then called the "Japan Self-Defense Force") and demanded to speak to the troops outside. When they assembled, he exhorted them to rise up and overthrow Japan's postwar pacifist regime and replace it with a government that once again emphasized military might. When the troops laughed at and heckled Mishima he returned to an office inside, where he shouted his undying loyalty to the emperor and proceeded to cut open his abdomen with his sword. His protegee (widely believed to be his lover), Masakatsu Morita, then cut off Mishima's head and committed seppuku himself.

*David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.*



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# Dykes with Tykes

by Michelle Zimmer

It is December already and Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas is my favorite time of year. Kay, on the other hand, dreads the holidays. While I am dreaming of Currier and Ives scenes with Kay and the kids, she is envisioning the annual bickering over schedules. When we were married one of our responsibilities at holiday time was to see to it that we were able to spend time both with our own families and with our spouses, taking care to ensure that none of our sometimes hyper-sensitive relatives felt slighted. Now, Kay and I have not only our own families expecting us to put in appearances, but also the kids' Dads and their family's schedules to take into account. They of course don't see why this should be a problem since they refuse to see us as a family.

This year we find ourselves in the unusual position of having the house to ourselves on Christmas Eve and the early part of Christmas morning. There was a time when this would have been heart-breaking, but we are actually looking forward to having a quiet, romantic evening ... just the two of us.

In my mind I picture us in front of the twinkling tree, Nat King Cole on the stereo, mugs of eggnog in our hands. However, the reality is this: On Christmas Eve the local furniture store will be delivering a bunk bed and a daybed, both of which will need to be assembled by the time the kids return on Christmas morning.

Back in October when we ordered the beds it seemed like a good idea to purchase them unassembled. We were being frugal, saving money by doing it ourselves. Come Christmas Eve when my handy woman and I tackle the project armed with our awesome set of tools (a pair of pliers and a cordless screwdriver) I know we'll be thinking otherwise.

With the exception of the beds, we really have vowed to do our best to make this December as stress-free as possible. One of the promises I made to Kay this year is that I wouldn't get involved in a whole bunch of craft projects. I have a tendency to start a number of projects to give as gifts and then get sidetracked. Before long there are unfinished wreaths, sweatshirts and piles of ornaments in every room of the house.

On December 24th, as our relatives are coming up the walk, I am running around with a glue gun in one hand and a bottle of fabric paint in the other. Kay swears her ulcer flares up when she sees the craft store fliers begin to show up in the Sunday paper. You will note however that I didn't promise not to do any crafts, only that I wouldn't get involved in a bunch of them. "Bunch" of course is a relative term. So far I only have six unfinished gifts to complete and I've got plenty of time to do those. Besides I can't put it off, we've got beds to build!

Kay is actually just as bad as I am when it comes to procrastinating with Christmas preparations. I asked her the

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other day if she wanted to go out and put up the lights. "No, it's too early," she responded. She is right. Traditionally, we always manage to pick the coldest day of the year to do our decorating. Last year it was so cold I thought I was going to have to call 911 to get Kay's butt thawed off of the roof where she was sitting while hanging lights. (I know what your thinking but I am much better at ladder holding). It just wouldn't seem right stringing lights in 65 degree weather, it would be too hard to get in the spirit. We have to have blue lips and frozen hands for that.

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# Music

REVIEW

by  
C. Robert Frank

## EVITA

### The Complete Motion Picture Music Soundtrack

WOW!! Trust me, I am far too jaded to use that interjection often. I try to remain objective to review a new album by first listening as a true martyr. Not too difficult for me to do ... so I've often been told. So what has impressed me about "Evita" to the point of "wow-dom"?

Let's begin with orchestration. Most musicals have scaled-down arrangements. After all, only a few people can fit into an orchestra pit. Usually when original orchestrations are expanded, they become rather pathetic. Two Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals to note in this case are "Aspects Of Love" and "Jesus Christ Superstar." "Aspects" appeared in London as a pretty chamber piece. When brought to Broadway, it was required to meet Equity musician standards. This cute, simple work became obnoxious and bombastic. It closed shortly after its arrival. "Jesus Christ Superstar" tried desperately to transcribe to the big screen. Musically it attempted to become "Ben Hur." That is to say it played upon all that was gaudy about 70's music. It sealed its own fate into condemnation without any hope of resurrection.

"Evita" could simply be at the right place at the right time. It has been re-orchestrated for the nineties as one long pop-ballad. Kind of like a two hour "It's All Coming Back To Me Now" with a little less Meatloaf and a lot more steak. Even "Buenos Aires" has survived the transition to 90's pop-dance with style.

Vocally, if you were a fan of the Lupone/Patinkin cast album, an adjustment period may be needed. Madonna and Banderas rely more upon the pretty than the grit. Antonio Banderas sings with a little

less controversy than his character "Che" has for Evita. Still he sings with strong conviction. Besides, I never knew he could sing at all. Jonathan Pryce offers a sturdy and confident Peron.

Madonna never overpowers Banderas or Pryce, but none the less steals the show. Madonna's range and interpretations of Eva Duarte-Peron are near flawless. In the beginning she sounds like a young, ambitious fifteen year old. "Buenos Aires" could be "Holiday," she uses that whiny voice that made her a star. By "A New Argentina" and the infamous "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" Madonna is strong, forceful, and on top of the world ... just like her character Evita. Once we reach "You Must Love Me" and "Lament," she is dying. Madonna's voice purposely cracks, there is a return to her innocence. Madonna has vocally convinced me of Evita's Ferris wheel life.

Wow!! It's not an interjection I use often, but when I'm asked about the movie soundtrack to Evita ... all I can exclaim is, ... WOW!!





# DJ's TOP TEN

**DJ : Michael DeCero**  
**Club: CARTWHEEL / New Hope**

1. **Unbreak My Heart**  
TONI BRAXTON
2. **Fired Up**  
FUNKY GREEN DOGS
3. **It's All Coming Back To Me Now**  
CELINE DION
4. **The Child Inside**  
QKUMBA ZOO
5. **Land Of The Living**  
KRISTINE W
6. **Ohno**  
DANNY TENAGLIA
7. **Paradise Is Here**  
CHER
8. **Love Commandments**  
GISSELE JACKSON
9. **One And One**  
ROBERT MILES
10. **The Boss**  
THE BRAXTONS

**DJ : Lis Flynn**  
**Club: DIAMONZ / Bethlehem**

1. **Unbreak My Heart**  
TONI BRAXTON
2. **It's All Coming Back To Me Now**  
CELINE DION
3. **The Child Inside**  
QKUMBA ZOO
4. **Keep On Movin**  
SOUL II SOUL
5. **I Love To Love**  
LA BOUCHE
6. **If You Really Love Me**  
LONNIE GORDON
7. **I Fell In Love**  
ROCHELL
8. **Land Of The Living**  
KRISTINE W
9. **Jazz It Up**  
REAL TO REAL
10. **Where Do You Go**  
NO MERCY

**DJ : Chris Frank**  
**Club: STONEWALL / Allentown**

1. **Constantly Waiting**  
PAULINE TAYLOR
2. **Land Of The Living**  
KRISTINE W
3. **Cunty**  
RAGEOUS PROJECTING
4. **Paradise Is Here**  
CHER
5. **Unbreak My Heart**  
TONI BRAXTON
6. **Sugar Is Sweeter**  
CJ BOLLAND
7. **Just Do It**  
LYDIA RHODES
8. **Love Commandments**  
GISELE JACKSON
9. **Like I Do**  
FOR REAL
10. **Never Miss The Water**  
CHAKA KHAN

**VJ : Michael Leidy**  
**Club: STONEWALL / Allentown**

1. **You Don't Fool Me (rmx)**  
QUEEN
2. **Spinning The Wheel (club mix)**  
GEORGE MICHAEL
3. **Jazz It Up**  
REEL II REEL
4. **Professional Widow**  
TORI AMOS
5. **The Child Inside**  
QKUMBA ZOO
6. **Cry India**  
UMBOZA
7. **Born Slippy**  
UNDERWORLD
8. **One More Try**  
KRISTINE W
9. **Set It Off**  
ORGANIZED NOIZE
10. **One On One**  
ROBERT MILES

## VIDEO



# Holiday Food Drive

**Saturday, December 14th**  
**9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

As a way of offering our support to the less fortunate in our community, we are sponsoring a Christmas Food Drive. On this special day, we are donating all of our services at absolutely no charge. Patients will receive an adjustment, ice, traction and trigger point therapy. Our Patient's Family and Friends will receive a free initial exam and xrays.

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### Non-Human Love

Many of us are, or know others who we call, animal lovers. Sometimes we make statements that indicate that someone loves an animal more than a person. Pets hold a special place in our heart that words can not convey. The feelings our pets generate in us are beautiful yet indescribable. We end up saying something like ... "I could just pick him/her up and squeeze her/him so tightly that I'm afraid I'd crush him/her!" Or "I just love him/her to death."

As any true pet owner knows, pets are sacred beings in non-human form. And they are incredibly psychic too ... which is why we talk to them, isn't it? I know of people whose love for their dog was so strong that they kept trying to get this dog in the house during the bitter cold winter months. Problem was ... the dog thrived outside and refused to be confined indoors. The doghouse that was built for this cherished family member was testament of owner love. I know of people whose limitless love for their pets meant they used traditional veterinary care as well as alternative methods such as Tellington Touch, accupressure, herbs, naturotherapy, etc. And I know a woman whose love of animals led her to cut down her most expensive Damart winter wear to keep a cherished Siamese cat warm.

Animal lovers? Absolutely! The human/pet bond is indeed sacred and must be honored. Humans who violate animals are violating the entire life force of the planet ... the animals, the people themselves, the earth energy, all healing energies whether animals or inanimate.

## Steve Black

Attorney

Vice Chair  
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## From "Flaming Homophobic" To Loving Parent

MY STORY by Jack Keenan

From a presentation at Ladera Community Church as part of "SHARING OUR STORIES: Gays & Lesbians, Families & Friends," July 21, 1996

Ten years ago I was a "flaming" homophobic but I didn't even know the word homophobic. I was convinced that the homosexual community was attempting to introduce their life style as an acceptable alternative through the use of the media. I would avoid films and change TV channels if homosexuality was being shown in a tolerant way. This to me was another liberal effort to accept any and all alternatives. I was convinced homosexuality was a choice, a poor choice, for those who were intimidated, feared, or could not be comfortable with the opposite sex. I was never abusive or confrontational, but certainly participated in laughing at gays and used derisive terms.

Six years ago following my wife's death, I had a considerable problem with my grief. I'm Catholic and was attending daily mass, seeking solace. Our parish priest and I became friends and I joined a scripture discussion group. This was certainly the beginning of my more serious spiritual journey. I truly began to look for and see Christ in other people.

I met Verda at an Elderhostel, and after the program we corresponded by telephone and letters and began a wonderful relationship. When I visited Verda in California and we realized the depth of our feelings, she explained to me that to continue she had to be satisfied I could accept her Lesbian daughter whom she loved dearly.

Verda also actively pursued justice for the gay community. Well, my new spirituality was being put to a test. We had a long discussion and fortunately I had an immediate opportunity to attend a P-FLAG meeting. My mind was open and I listened to parents and members of the gay community. I heard and saw their love for one another, the pain of rejection by society, parents, and church. I began to see the Christ in all these people, and feel the spirit of God's presence.

In June of that year I went to the Gay Pride parade in San Francisco. I was a little hesitant and embarrassed. But then I witnessed sincere emotion seeing the AIDS patients and the concerned support. The emotional outpouring of the crowds, the tearful joy greeting P-FLAG. I was only a spectator at this point but felt emotional.

Well now I'm at every P-FLAG meeting. I'm now firmly convinced that homosexuality is not a choice, but a condition of birth. I'm convinced the community's spirituality is valid and in need of support. I also have a beautiful, loving, lesbian step-daughter whose love and affirmation have helped me through some difficult moments.

I'm convinced prejudice is formed by considering differences with suspicion and fear rather than love. I think if we can face our prejudices, whether they be religious, race, color, sexuality or language with an open mind; seeing the individual, focusing on the spirit of God within, we can rid ourselves of our prejudices and open ourselves to love.



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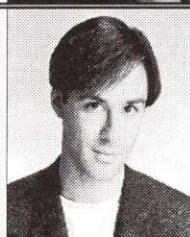
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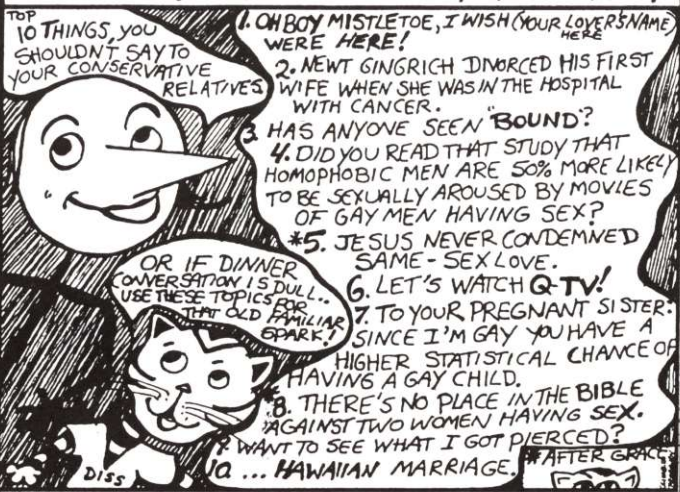
# COMICS

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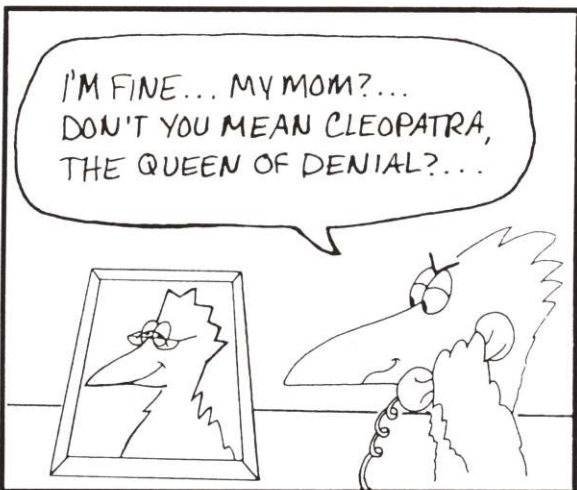


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# QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Dear Dr. LeVay: I saw a movie where Arnold Schwarzenegger got pregnant and had a baby. Was that for real? Ever Hopeful in Boystown.

Dear Hopeful: Actually, not. But your question brings up the facts of reproductive biology, and how gay and lesbian parents need some help from science.

When queer couples decide to raise a family, they're up against a problem, which is this: two men or two women can't make babies. Not once, in the entire timespan of mammalian evolution, has a creature been born from the genetic union of two males or two females. It's always been a male and a female - that's just the way Nature intended it. Which doesn't mean that we can't do better.

Lots of same-sex couples would like to be the real biological parents of their child or children. It's obvious from the "next-best" strategies people often use. Gay male couples sometimes mix their sperm before insemination - as if their DNA is going to magically blend together and produce a "two-father" child. (No such luck.) Lesbians sometimes use a close male relative as the sperm donor. Not a bad idea, but even if the donor is your brother, his DNA is still only going

to be about 50% the same as yours. And the other 50% codes for who knows what - probably all those obnoxious traits that make you glad you don't see your brother from one Thanksgiving to the next.

Real same-sex parenting is not something that could be achieved next week. It's a very tricky scientific challenge. But in the context of the revolution in biology that is happening right now, it's not an unrealistic goal for the future, if people want it badly enough.

Up until now, embryos have always been formed by the union of a sperm (supplied by a male) and an egg or ovum (supplied by a female). Both the sperm and the ovum provide DNA, but the ovum provides much more: it's the house, as it were, in which the embryo grows, a house which is constantly being subdivided and remodeled during the early stages of development. An ovum is absolutely essential. A sperm? Well, perhaps not so essential.

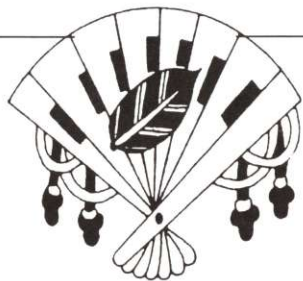
With a lesbian couple, same-sex parenting would work like this. Each woman provides an ovum. The nucleus of one ovum (the part that contains the DNA) is removed and inserted into the other ovum, taking the place of the sperm nucleus that normally inserts itself during fertilization. The fertilized ovum would then be implanted in the woman it came from, and voila! - a same-sex pregnancy. With a gay male couple, an unrelated woman donates an ovum. The nucleus, containing the woman's DNA, is removed, and the nucleus from one of the men's sperm is put in its place. Then, the ovum is fertilized by the other man's sperm, and it is re-implanted in the woman's uterus.

It may sound easy, but there are major problems. No one yet knows how to make the nucleus of an ovum act like the nucleus of a sperm, once it's inside the other ovum. Nor how to make the nucleus of a sperm act like the nucleus of an ovum. Also, some genes are chemically labeled as coming from the mother or the father - a process called "imprinting." These labels would have to be changed, otherwise the resulting embryo would be defective. Finally, there are problems with the sex chromosomes. Without further tinkering, two women could only produce girls, because neither of them possess the Y chromosome that makes embryos male. Two men could produce both girls and boys, but they could also produce embryos with an abnormal set of sex chromosomes. It would be necessary to screen the individual sperms, to make sure the right combination of sex chromosomes was used. But this would have the bonus of letting the couple choose whether to have a son or a daughter.

As I see it, all these challenges can be met, given sufficient effort. If we can put a man on the moon, we can have one-sex parenting. So get on the phone to your elected officials, and tell them you want it made a national priority.

In fact, while we're looking into the crystal ball, let's look a little further ahead - to the day when men really can have babies a la Schwarzenegger. All it would take would be a uterus transplant (Arnold skipped that part), a sprinkling of hormones, and a C-section after nine months. It won't happen next year, but perhaps within the shelf-life of embryos now frozen.

*Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996) and the co-author (with Elisabeth Nonas) of *City of Friends*. He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at [SLeVay@aol.com](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com).*



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## **Horrorscoops** by Evil Esther



**AQUARIUS  
Jan. 20-Feb.18**

Introspection will bring you clarity this month. Reflect back on the year that was and start on those resolutions early. It is clear that there are tough choices to make, but you are a strong person, and you will do what is right!



**GEMINI  
May 21-June 20**

This is the last month of tension for you. All things will be at rest in the last week. Holiday stress doesn't have to be there if you make a little effort to head off the disaster that could come from chaos. Think!



**PISCES  
Feb.19-March 20**

Just when you thought it was all over...there is a third act! Prepare yourself for some real surprises this month, as you will be hit from all directions. It may seem like more than one person should be asked to bear, so keep your wits about you.



**CANCER  
June 21-July 22**

Distance will be shortened in the most unexpected way this month. Be prepared for guests to stay overnight, in other words, hide all those "toys" where they won't be found! Pleasant times for you this month from your visitor.



**ARIES  
March 21-April 19**

Last Christmas you PROMISED yourself that you would send cards. You know how that turned out! Someone is longing to hear from you, so make good on your promise and send those cards out! It will be well worth it in the end.



**LEO  
July 23-Aug.22**

Still being pulled in too many directions will leave you feeling stressed by mid month. It is impossible to make everyone happy, so start with yourself. Be sure to put something under your tree from you to you.



**TAURUS  
April 20-May 20**

The greatest gift you can give this year is honesty. It is a rather simple thing that you need to do, so get on with it! Make yourself happy by following your heart this month. Someone special is counting on you.



**VIRGO  
Aug.23-Sept.22**

Your true nature is exposed early in the month. Take a good hard look at yourself and say good-bye to the bad side. You are due for some changes, and they will happen whether you are ready or not.



**LIBRA  
Sept.23-Oct.22**

Theft leaves you wondering "What ever happened to the Christmas Spirit?" Make sure you realize what really counts in this lifetime, and not what you think you have lost. Take it all with a grain of salt, and a belt of booze!



**SCORPIO  
Oct.23-Nov.21**

Enjoy the beauty of this season. You missed so much of it last year. Take the time to watch the snow fall and the fire burn. It passes all too soon and there is nothing you can do to slow it down.



**SAGITTARIUS  
Nov.22-Dec.21**

Grinch got you by the rubber parts? Well, it looks like that's where you'll stay if you don't LIGHTEN UP this month. Sing a song of happiness and your heart will grow until it bursts. There are good times to be had, don't spoil them.



**CAPRICORN  
Dec.22-Jan.19**

No time for the traditional holiday? Well, it's your own fault and you know it! Look to others for help while you are so busy, and don't be afraid to ask them. You can trust them to make the right choices.



# Community Resources

## Bars / Clubs

### ALLENTOWN

**Candida**  
247 N. 12th St.  
610-434-3071

### **Stonewall & Moose Lounge**

28 N. 10th St.  
610-432-0215

### BETHLEHEM

**Diamondz**  
1913 W. Broad St.  
610-865-1028

### EAST STROUDSBURG

**Rainbow Mountain**  
RD 8 Box 8174  
717-223-8484

### HARRISBURG

**B-TLS**  
891 Eisenhower Blvd.  
717-939-1123

### **Neptune Lounge**

268 North St.  
717-233-3078

### **Stallions**

706 N. 3rd St.  
717-232-3060

### NEW HOPE

**Cartwheel**  
Route 202  
215-862-0880

### **Raven**

385 W. Bridge St.  
215-862-2081

### READING

**Scarab**  
724 Franklin St.  
610-375-7878

## Bars / Clubs

### WILKES-BARRE/ SCRANTON AREA

**Club Paragon**  
222 Wyoming Ave.  
Scranton, PA  
717-969-6399

### **The Buzz**

133 N. Washington Ave.  
Scranton, PA  
717-969-0900

### **Selections**

45 Public Square  
Wilkes-Barre, PA  
717-829-4444

## AIDS Related Organizations

### **AIDS Outreach**

112 N. 5th St.  
Allentown, PA 18102  
610-435-8424

### • **AIDS Services Center**

60 W. Broad St.  
Suite 205  
Bethlehem, PA 18108  
610-974-8701

### • **Allentown Health Bureau**

HIV testing  
245 N. 6th St.  
Allentown, PA 18102  
(contact David Moyer)  
610-437-7742

### • **FACT**

P.O. Box 1028  
Allentown, PA 18105  
610-820-5519

### • **FACT Bucks County**

P.O. Box 616  
Buckingham, PA 18912

### • **Latino AIDS Outreach**

610-861-6845

### • **Wyoming Valley AIDS Council**

P.O. Box 2677  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703  
717-823-5808

### • **Wayne Pike AIDS Council**

P.O. Box 1131  
Honesdale, PA 18431  
800-866-7281

### • **We Care HIV/AIDS Support Network**

P.O. Box 1013  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703  
717-824-1007

## Religious Affiliations

### **Grace Covenant Fellowship**

9-1 Hamilton Mall.  
Allentown, PA 18101  
610-740-0247

### **Hope Ministries**

Rev. Bob J. Forté  
610-791-0716  
24 hrs.-leave message.

### **Integrity**

610-395-1785  
610-758-8642

### **Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley**

Unitarian Universalist Church  
424 Center St.  
Bethlehem, PA  
610-439-8755

### **Phoenix Independent Outreach Ministries**

Rev. Joël S. Diehl, DD, MsD.  
610-437-9447 leave message

### **Unitarian Universalist**

Church of the L.V.  
424 Center St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
610-866-7652

### **Zen Buddhist Sangha**

Ongoing meditation meetings  
610-559-8136  
leave message

## Community/Social/Support Organizations

### **Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance**

P.O. Box 417  
Reading, PA 19603-0417  
610-373-0674

### **Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley**

Bethlehem, PA  
610-439-8755

### **GLORA**

Gays & Lesbians Of  
Reading & Allentown  
P.O. Box 1952  
Allentown, PA 18105

## Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

### • **League of Gay & Lesbian Voters**

Lehigh Valley Chapter  
P.O. Box 20781  
Lehigh Valley, PA  
18002-0781  
610-432-5449

### • **Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force**

P.O. Box 20253  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
610-868-3388

### • **Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus**

P.O. Box 20712  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
610-740-0247  
610-821-0578

### • **Lehigh Valley Lesbians**

Bethlehem, PA  
610-253-5454

### • **Live and Let Live, Gays & Lesbians in A.A.**

Meetings Weds. 8PM  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Front & Windsor Sts., Reading

### • **North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.**

P.O. Box 3624  
Allentown, PA 18106  
E-mail: GendrFrend@aol.com  
610-821-2955

### • **P-Flag**

Memb. Info: 215-368-2473  
Newsletter: 215-234-4049  
Support: 610-820-9838

### • **PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley**

P.O. Box 20804  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
610-770-6200

### • **Renaissance**

Education Assoc., Inc  
P.O. Box 2122  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122  
717-780-1578

### • **Velvet Spikers** volleyball-tennis

P.O. Box 21862  
Lehigh Valley, PA  
18002-1862  
610-434-2966

### • **Q'Zine: A Weekly Queer Audio Magazine**

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- Drink Specials
- Munchies & More!

**X-MAS DAY**

Open 8pm-2am

- It's Coupon Night!
- Special Happy Hour  
10pm-12am

**14 on the 14th !  
Saturday, Dec. 14**

The Scarab's  
**14th Anniversary  
Celebration**

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- Drink Specials •
- &  
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|---|---|--|--|---|